



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Appellant: William D. Koenigsberg
Serial No.: 10/807,798
Filed: March 24, 2004
Title: Strain-Relieving Wire Lead-In
Examiner: Tuyen T. Nguyen
Group Art Unit: 2832

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Feb. 15, 2006 by Carlo S. Bessone.

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

COVER LETTER

Enclosed are three copies of an Appeal Brief in the above-entitled application which is submitted in response to the Final Rejection dated September 20, 2005 wherein all the claims then of record (claims 1-3) were finally rejected. A Notice of Appeal was filed on December 21, 2005, together with an authorization to charge the appeal fee to a specified Deposit Account. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.192, this Appeal Brief is filed in triplicate within two months of the date of filing said Notice of Appeal.

The additional fee of \$500 for filing this Brief in Support of an Appeal under Fee Code 1402 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 15-0685. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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AF#

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte William D. Koenigsberg

APPLICATION FOR PATENT 10/807,798

Serial No.:

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BRIEF ON APPEAL

This Appeal Brief is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2005 wherein all the claims then of record (claims 1-3) were finally rejected. A Notice of Appeal was filed on December 21, 2005, together with an authorization to charge the appeal fee to a specified Deposit Account. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.192, this Appeal Brief in support of the appeal is filed in triplicate within two months of the date of filing said Notice of Appeal.

(I) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in the above-identified application is OSRAM SYLVANIA INC.

(II) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

It is believed that there are no other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(III) STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 have been rejected and are herein appealed. These claims are delineated in the Appendix attached hereto. No claims have been canceled or allowed.

(IV) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment has been filed subsequent to final rejection.

(V) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

With particular reference to page 4, line 19 to page 6, line 6 and FIGS. 1 and 2, the present invention as defined by Claim 1 relates a coil bobbin 10 that comprises a housing 12 having an interior 13 and including a floor 14 with at least one electrical lead-in 16 projecting through an aperture 15 in the floor for attachment to a printed circuit board. The at least one electrical lead-in has a given diameter D1 and is provided with thermal-strain relief 20 that is positioned within the interior 13 of the housing 14. The aperture 15 in the floor of the

housing 12 has a diameter D2 larger than the given diameter D1 of the lead-in. Incorporating the thermal strain relief within the housing does not increase the height or thickness of the bobbin package and still suppresses the thermally-induced strain associated with operation of the electronic component utilizing the bobbin. According to Claim 2, the thermal-strain relief 20 comprises a loop 22. According to Claim 3, the housing 12 includes a wall 24 adjacent the thermal-strain relief 20 and the wall 24 has a free-play zone 26 therein comprising a detent into which the loop extends as shown in FIG. 2.

(VI) GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-3 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wohlhieter (U.S. 2,929,132) in view of Barankin et al (U.S. 4,700,167).

(VII) ARGUMENT

CLAIMS 1 THROUGH 3 ARE NOT OBVIOUS
OVER WOHLHIETER IN VIEW OF BARANKIN ET AL

According to the Final Office Action dated September 20, 2005, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohlhieter in view of Barankin et al. The Examiner contends that Wohlhieter discloses a bobbin comprising a housing having a floor, at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture in the floor wherein the at least one electrical lead-in having a given diameter, and a thermal strain relief wherein the thermal strain relief comprises a loop. The Examiner admits that Wohlhieter fails to disclose the aperture having a diameter larger than the diameter of the electrical lead-in. Barankin et al is cited by the Examiner as disclosing a bobbin construction with strain relief having at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture of

the bobbin wherein the aperture having a diameter larger than that of the at least one electrical lead-in.

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the lead-in(s) and aperture(s) design of Barankin in Wohlhieter for the purpose of easily inserting the lead-in through the floor/flange of the bobbin.

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reversal thereof by this Honorable Board is respectfully requested. Appellants respectfully submit that there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Wohlhieter in view of Barankin et al in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

The present invention as defined by Claim 1 relates a coil bobbin that comprises a housing having an interior and including a floor with at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture in the floor for attachment to a printed circuit board. The at least one electrical lead-in has a given diameter and is provided with *thermal*-strain relief that is positioned within the interior of the housing. The aperture in the floor of the housing has a diameter larger than the given diameter of the lead-in. Incorporating the thermal strain relief within the housing does not increase the height or thickness of the bobbin package and still suppresses the thermally-induced strain associated with operation of the electronic component utilizing the bobbin.

With particular attention to column 1, lines 47-67, Wohlhieter discloses a spool or bobbin type coil form including a fusible spool head on each side of a central hub about which the turns of the coil are wound. Terminals are formed of rigid wire and extend parallel to the axis of the coil form and through the fusible spool heads. Each terminal includes a bow or kink adjacent the winding to which the initial or final turn is soldered. Wohlhieter specifically teaches that the bow of the inner terminal lies against the coil form while the corresponding kink of the outer terminal lies against the outer layer of the winding. Each terminal is fused directly to the bobbin.

Barankin et al discloses a bobbin construction including a strain relief (non-thermal type) which allows an assembler to pick up the unit by the leads without damage to the termination connection. This particular strain relief includes termination blocks 32 and 34 disposed at opposite ends of a web 22 on each of the flanges 16. Recesses 36, 38 and 40, 42 are formed in terminal blocks 32 and 34, respectively. Notwithstanding the fact that the strain relief of Barankin et al is not a thermal strain relief, Appellant respectfully submits that Barankin et al's strain relief is positioned remote from the interior of the bobbin housing. As previously stated, the thermal strain relief of the present invention is positioned within the housing and suppresses thermally-induced strain associated with operation of the electronic component utilizing the bobbin.

Appellant respectfully submits that under 35 U.S.C. § 103, teachings of references can be combined only if there is some suggestion or incentive to do so. There is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Wohlhieter by using the lead-in and aperture design of Barankin et al as proposed by the Examiner. As stated above, Wohlhieter requires that each terminal is fused directly to the flange of the bobbin. Nothing in the references suggest modifying Wohlhieter so that instead of being fused, the terminal extends through a flange aperture which has a diameter larger than that of the terminal.

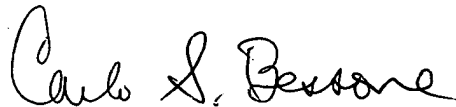
Appellant respectfully submits that in view of the above, it is evident that Wohlhieter and Barankin et al lack proper teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Wohlhieter in the manner proposed by the Examiner. The only way the Examiner could have arrived at his conclusion is through hindsight analysis by reading into the art the teachings of the Appellant. Hindsight analysis is clearly improper, since the statutory test is whether "the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made."

Absent such teaching or suggestion, the invention as defined by independent Claim 1 is deemed fully patentable over Wohlhieter and Barankin et al. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and allowance of independent Claim 1 is respectfully urged.

Appellant's Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on independent Claims 1, and therefore include all recitations thereof. Moreover, Appellant's dependent claims include additional limitations that, when combined with the recitations in Claim 1, render these claims further distinct and non-obvious over the cited references. Therefore, Claims 2-4 are likewise deemed allowable.

For the reasons and arguments presented above, Appellants submit that Claims 1-3 are deemed fully patentable over Wohlhieter in view of Barankin et al. Accordingly, reversal of the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-3 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103 by this Honorable Board is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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on February 15, 2006 by Carlo S. Bessone.

(VIII) CLAIMS APPENDIX

The following represent all of Appellant's claims on appeal:

1. A coil bobbin comprising:

a housing having an interior and including a floor with at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture in said floor for attachment to a printed circuit board, said at least one electrical lead-in having a given diameter and being provided with thermal-strain relief positioned within said interior, said aperture in said floor having a diameter larger than said given diameter.

2. The coil bobbin of Claim 1 wherein said thermal-strain relief comprises a loop.

3. The coil bobbin of Claim 2 wherein said housing includes a wall adjacent said thermal-strain relief and said wall has a free-play zone therein comprising a detent into which said loop extends.

(IX) EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Item not relevant

(X) RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Item not relevant